

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP 10-019554, hereinafter Yoshinori, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,840,118, hereinafter Godler. Godler is not prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) because it was not published until after the filing date of the present application. In view of the fact that Godler and the present application are both assigned to the same entity, i.e., Harmonic Drive Systems, Inc., applicants submit that Godler is not prior art in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection based on Yoshinori in view of Godler.

The Examiner is further advised that an Information Disclosure Statement is filed concurrently herewith. In the Information Disclosure Statement, JP 2004-045378 is submitted for the Examiner's consideration, together with a machine-generated translation thereof. JP 2004-045378 claims priority of JP 2002-136890, which is the priority application for Godler. Accordingly, JP 2004-045378 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,840,118.

The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the present rejection and to consider the information submitted herewith in the Information Disclosure Statement.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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